

Letters

from Andrew Snape Hammond Esq^r Commander
of His Majesty's Ship Roebuck,
between the 1st January 1778 and the
end

His Majesty's Service.

Roebuck at Philadelphia
1st January 1778.

Sir,

Via P.S. 2.

Herewith you will receive a copy of the
Regulations established for the purpose of preventing
Accidents by Fire, or the Designs of the Enemy during
the time the Ships are under the necessity of taking
shelter at the Wharfs from the Ice in the River,
And should there appear to be any neglect in the
Execution of them in the District near you, I am
to desire you will please to give me the earliest
information thereof, as well as to take care that
every necessary precaution is observed onboard
the Ship you Command, by having Water in
the Well and Buckets, always ready to give
Assistance where ever it may be required. I am

To
The respective Captains

and Commanders of the Liverpool

Camilla

Pearl

Zebras

Vigilant

Delaware

Viper Sch^{re}

Adventure Shore Ship

Cornwallis Galley

A. S. Hammond.

2
Pursuant to Authority from
Andrew Inape Harmon Esq. Commanding
His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the
River Delaware.

The following Orders and Regulations being
thought necessary for the more effectual Safety and
preservation of the Fleet, All Masters of Transports
and Traders are directed to regard them with
strict Attention.

The Wharfs of the City are divided
into three Districts under the immediate direction
of the following Officers.

Lieutenant Parry from the Upper Wharf to Market
Street Wharf.

Lieutenant Chads from Market Street Wharf to
Hamiltons Wharf.

Lieutenant Barker from Hamiltons Wharf to the
Lower Wharf.

To those Gentlemen the Masters
of the Night Patrole are to make Report in writing
of the Occurrences which may happen during
their Guard, that such as fail in obedience to
the following Orders may be duly noticed.

During the Night a constant and regular
Watch of two Men in a Ship, and one in smaller
Vessels is to be kept; and a Master with a Mate
and four Men from each District are to
patrole the Wharfs to see that the Gally Fires
and all Lights (except the Masters) are put out
by eight o'clock. The Patrole is to visit all Ships
and

and Vessels abovementioned through the Night, and if any obstruction shall be offered to this essential and necessary point of Duty they are to report such Offenders that proper Methods may be taken for bringing them to Punishment. Report is also to be made of any Vessel who may have neglected to keep proper Watch.

Each Ship or Vessel is to have one or two Casks of Water placed near the Gally or Cooking place with their Heads out, and the Ship's Buckets ranged at Hand that an immediate Supply of Water may be had while the River is Froze; and whenever Ship or House is discovered on Fire the Ship's Bell, are to be rung to give the Alarm, but at no other time.

Those Ships laying in the District where Fire happens, are to give immediate Assistance whether it may be House or Ship, taking care always to leave two people onboard for the Security of their own Ship.

No Person is to pass between the Ships and Wharfs after Gun fire, except the Patrole, or in case of an Alarm as beforementioned.

To
The Lieutenants
Parry, Chad, & Barker
Agents for Transports.

Given onboard the Fanny at
Philadelphia the 29th December
1777.

Jn. Bowmaster.
Principal Agent
of Transports

Probuch at Philadelphia
the 9th January 1778.

Sir,

Government being obliged to pay
very extravagant Prices for what Naval Stores can
be procured at this Port; I am to recommend
the utmost Economy to be used in Refitting His
Majesty's Ship under your Command, and
that no Rigging may be shifted and replaced
with new, without being first Surveyed and found
absolutely unfit for its proper Use.

To

The respective Captains,
and Commanders of the Liverpool

Camilla

Pearl.

Zebra.

Vigilant

Delaware.

I am &c. A. Hammond

Viper Sch.^a

Adventure Store f.th

Cornwallis Galley.

Probuch at Philadelphia
the 13 Janry 1778.

Sir,

I have drawn a Bill of Exchange on
You in favor of Henry Thompson bearing date
the 6th Instant for £500 Sterling, likewise another
of the same date in favor of Samuel Inglis for
£425 Sterling. Both of which are for Work done
to, and Stores purchased for the Use of His Majesty's
Ships and Vessels here under my Orders which
you will please to pay when they become due.

M^{rs} William Fowler
Naval Officer New York

I am &c. A. Hammond

Proebuck at Philadelphia,
21. January 1778.

Sir,

His Excellency Sir William Howe
Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in
America, having been informed by Sir Henry Clinton,
that he has received by the October and November
mails some Government Dispatches of importance
for the General, from England; which has not
been forwarded to His Excellency for want of a safe
conveyance. I have therefore at the General's
request, sent the Liverpool to you on that Service,
and beg the favor of you to apply to Sir Henry
Clinton for the Dispatches, as also to allow the
Letters for the Army and Navy here to be put on board
the Liverpool, and to direct Captain Bellow to
return hither with all convenient dispatch.

I beg leave to refer you to Captain Bellow
for every particular relative to our Situation
here. He will explain to you the cause of an
Embargo being layed on all Shipping, and the
necessity of its continuing until the Season of
the Year, shall be sufficiently advanced, to allow
the Ships of War to take their Stations in the
River with safety; I therefore hope no Trading
Vessels will be allowed to Sail from New York
hither until the end of next Month.

I have the honor to be with great respect
and esteem Sir Yr
Aff^d Hammond.

Commodore Hotham.

P.S.

Since writing the above I have seen General Howe, who informs me He has written to Sir Henry Clinton to desire a Transport may be sent round with the Baggage of the Army that remains at New York, under Convoy of the Liverpool, but upon considering that the loading the Transport will take up some Time, the General has desired me to mention to you, that He is so anxious for his Dispatches that He wishes the Liverpool not to be detained, but would be glad if you could give a Convoy to the Transport some short time hence from New York. The Experiment is at the Capes of the Delaware so that the Ship sent from New York need not come further than to join Sir James Wallace her Comm^d.

Broebuck at Philadelphia

The 23 January 1778.

Sir,

Since the departure of my Lord Howe from hence a month ago, no material occurrence has happened except the loss of the Brig Symmetry laden with Baggage for the Army. — An account of the Ice usually found in the Delaware during some Weeks in the Winter, the Ships of War were withdrawn from their Stations to the Town; and an Embargo took place on all Shipping the 25th of December. But a favorable opportunity, and the consideration that the want of the Cargo might be felt by the Troops, tempted the Commander of the Ships of War charged with that

W^m Despencer Esq^r.

that Duty at the Mouth of the River, to allow
the Vessel to attempt to reach Philadelphia.
In her passage She had the Misfortune to run
a ground near Wilmington, where a Body of the
Rebels are Posted, and before any Assistance
could be given from hence, the Ice formed and
She fell into the hands of the Enemy.

The Admiral carried with him near
Sixty sail of Transports, which are divided
between New York and Rhode Island; about
the same number remain here, with the greatest
part of the Flat Boats; which together, with the
Men of War and Armed Vessels under my Orders,
are undergoing such repairs and equipment as
the time of year, and circumstances will allow
of. The Service of the last Year has made this
a heavier Work than might be expected, but
there is no doubt of the whole being completed
early enough in the Spring to prevent any delay
to the Operations of the Army on that account.

Enclosed is the State and Condition
of the Squadron under my directions, and also
an account of their present Stations.

I have the honor to be with much
regard, &c.

A. Hammond.

Philip Stephens Esq. - Admty Office. -

Via P.S. 7

Proberuck at Philadelphia } Disposition of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under the Orders of Captain Anderson
 the 23 January 1778. } In the Diamond; Detached from the Fleet under the Command of the Vice Admiral the Honourable

Ships Names.	Commanders.	Where Stationed &c.
Proberuck.	Capt. A. S. Hammond.	Alongside the Wharf at Philadelphia, to take Shelter from the Ice in the River.
Experiment.	Lieut. James Wallace.	Cruizing at the Entrance of the River.
Liverpool.	Capt. W. Bell.	Appointed to convey the Packet down the River.
Camilla.	Hon. G. Phipps.	
Pearl.	Capt. G. S. Lawrence.	
Zebr.	En. Orde.	
Vigilant A.S.	B. Christian.	
Delaware A.S.	James Watt.	At the Wharf at Philadelphia, to take Shelter from the Ice in the River.
Adventure	En. S. Lewis.	
Viper A. Sch.	C. Cokerham.	
Annally Galley.	J. Spry.	
Several Tender.	Pilot Boat, Gun Boat &c.	
Philip Stephens & Co.	Admty Office.	

Probus at Philadelphia
Gentlemen. 23. January 1778.

Mr. Desponcer Bay.

Herewith you will receive Monthly Books for His Majesty's Ship under my Command for November and December 1776, and for January, February, March and April 1777, the Receipt of which you will please to acknowledge. The remainder shall be sent by the next Conveyance.

Having directions from the Vice Admiral the Viscount Howe to refit the Squadron Flat Boats and Tenders left here under my Orders, so as to be fit for Service early in the Spring a quantity of Stores have been purchased, for which I have had occasion to draw Bills of Exchange on your Board for £500 Sterling in favor of M^r. Thomas Irving or Order, dated the 6th Instant; which I beg the favor may be paid when they become due.

M^r. Charles Fletcher, the Surgeon of the Probus having been in a declining state of Health, has been found by a Survey to be totally unfit for Service; He has therefore my Permission to return to England.

I have the honor to be &c
J. Hammond.

Principal Officers & Commissioners of His Majesty's Navy.

Probusch at Philadelphia
the 23rd January 1778.

4.
Despatches Recy. + Sir,

The Sickly state of the Ships Companies of the Squadron under my Orders, having made it necessary to establish an Hospital for their Recovery, whilst the Ships remain here; I beg leave to inform you that I have appointed M^r Richard Clark to be Surgeon, and have given directions to M^r James Mason to Supply the Provisions and Necessaries at the cheapest Rate they can be procured; for which Bills will be drawn on your Board, and regular Accounts transmitted from time to time.

I am &c.

A. J. Hamonds

Commissioners for Sick & Hurt.

Probusch at Philadelphia
the 1st February 1778.

My Lord,

York Sloop.

The breaking up of the Frost has so much cleared the River of the Ice, that the Liverpool is enabled to sail for New York for the Generals Dispatches arrived there in the three last Pacquets. - With the Liverpool goes also a Mail for England in the Despatches Pacquet convoyed by two Armed Vessels.

Since your Lordships departure from
hence

hence no material event has happened except the loss of the Transport Brig Symetry one of the Baggage Vessels from New York, which run ashore near Wilmington, and by the Frost coming on fell into the Enemy's hands before any Assistance could be sent from hence.

Out of thirty Vessels that were taking in Forage at Tinicum Island the 27th Decem. when the Snow begun, only three, ^(which were empty) failed of getting back to the Town; those drove up and down with the Ice for a day or two, and at last grounded on the Jersey Shore near Gloucester and were burnt by the Rebels.

An Attempt was made some Weeks ago to get Six Gun-Boats past the Town, to lay in the Mouths of the Creeks on the Jersey Shore to prevent the Market Boats from passing; But as the two foremost of them deserted and came to Philadelphia, the design was layed aside, since which it is said they have been carried over land to Salem Creek. There are also two Gun Boats and a small Privateer Sloop at Wilmington, and the Deserters from thence say the Rebels are preparing some Fire-Machines.

The Cannon left by the Enemy in the Stocks of their Ships and floating Batteries have been destroyed, and a small Work on the Shore opposite to them, erected for the purpose of preventing it, as well as to annoy Vessels going up and down the River, with one Gun mounted in it was also destroyed by the Officer sent on that Service

The

11
The Flat Boats are all in repair and the
Transports and Men of War in some forwardness
with their Refitting.

I have the honor to be Sir,

J. Hammond.

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Viscount Howe &c.

Probus at Philadelphia

27th January 1778.

Sir,

Vid P.S. 12

Inclosed you have a true Copy of a
Protest made by Lieutenants Barker and Chads,
Agents for Transports, against your own Conduct,
as well as the Vessel whereof you are Master;
I am in consequence to desire you will immediately
Use your utmost Endeavors to deliver the Ordnance
Stores yet remaining in your Charge, agreeable to
your former Directions, to M. Christopher Farlam,
Gunner of His Majesty's Ship the Probus,
who will furnish you with proper Receipts
for such Stores as you deliver into his Care;
in order that your Vessel may be discharged
from His Majesty's Service being an unnecessa-
ry Expence, and therefore hereby Discharged
accordingly. I am Sir

M. Joseph Furnace

J. Hammond.

Master of the Ordnance Transport

Rebecca.

For Copy of Lieut. Barker & Chad's
Protest against the Rebecca Ordinance
Transport.

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Sir,

Proebuck at Philadelphia

4th February 1778

As the other Ships are now in some forwardness with their Refitting, I am to desire you will please to put the Camilla in a state fit for Sea, or any Service in the River she may be wanted for, with all convenient Dispatch.

I should recommend giving her a considerable Keel, and cleaning by that means as much of the Bottom as you can; and on account of the difficulty and expence that attends the procuring of Stores of all kinds at this place, that no new Cordage or other Articles be made use of, but in place of such as have been found by Survey to be absolutely unfit for Service.

I am &c.

A. Hammond.

Hon.^{ble} Charles Phipps
— Camilla.

Sir,

Proebuck at Philadelphia

4th February 1778.

The Frost having entirely broke up, and the River being quite clear of Ice, it is my desire that you get the Tebra ready for Service with all convenient Dispatch, and proceed down the River, as far as Gloucester Point, where you are to examine all Boats that pass up and down
the

the River, and use your best endeavors to gain early Intelligence respecting the movements of the Enemy. In case the Weather should so far change, that a quantity of Ice be again made in the River, you will then be at liberty, if you judge it necessary for the preservation of the Ship's Bottom, to return again to the Wharfs at the Town.

I am &c.

Capt. In. Orde

A. J. Hammond.

— Tebra.

Probuch at Philadelphia

5th February 1778.

My Lord,

Lieutenant Walbeoff with your Lordship's Dispatches for the General, arrived here the 1. Instant. He came into the Delaware at a fortunate time, as the Ice was then breaking up; However he met with much difficulty, and shewed both judgment and perseverance in getting up the River.

The Liverpool passed the lower Chevaux de Frize the 3.^d Instant. A Body of militia appeared at Billingsport, perhaps with a view to be ready to take advantage of any accident, as they withdrew themselves upon the approach of the Ship, and She passed without any molestation.

A number of Army Victuallers are preparing to sail for Cork. They are all Ships of Force and will require no Convoy, but as more Frost is to be

be expected, it will not be proper to run the risk of their sailing until towards the end of the Month. With them will also sail a Transport to carry home the Invalids of the Army.

Having so very lately had the Honor to write to your Lordship by Captain Belieu, I have little more to add by the return of the Sloop York than the account of the State and Condition of the Squadron entrusted to my Care. By the return which accompanies this your Lordship will perceive how much we have suffered from Fever and Plur. As the Cold Weather came on, the numbers of Sick increased so much, that besides an Hospital fitted up to hold one hundred and fifty Patients, each Ship had a small House allotted them near the Wharf they lay at, to hold such as could not be accommodated at the Hospital. All possible care, and every kind of nourishment, has been procured for them; and I have now the satisfaction to find a considerable change for the better.

The Number of Slops and Beds left here was very inadequate to the wants of the Men; I was therefore under the necessity of giving Orders to the Purser of the Ships to purchase a quantity of the Articles most wanted. They will by that means come something dearer to the People than such as are Supplied by the Navy Board but that inconvenience is much over ballanced by

Vid. Hospital Return to Feb 7/78.

by the Relief obtained by it.

Several Vacancies having happened among the Officers, I have ordered others to act in their room, as no hindrance might happen to the Service on that account, and M^r. Charles Fletcher the Surgeon of the Boebuck has been allowed to return to England for the re-establishment of his Health, having been found on Survey to be incapable of performing his duty.

Two Row Gallies are upon the Stocks, which, with the rest of the Squadron, I hope your Lordship will find fit for Service on your arrival; at least nothing shall be wanting on my part to obtain it.

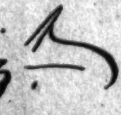
I have the Honor &c. &c.

A. Hammond.

The R^t. Honble

The Lord Viscount Howe

&c. &c.

Schedule of Papers transmitted to the Vice Admiral the Viscount Howe, with the Letter dated 5th Feb. 1778. — Viz. 

State and Condition of the Squadron in the River Delaware.

Return from the Naval Hospital at Philadelphia of the number of Patients received, discharged, and remaining under Cure &c.

List

7
List of Officers appointed to officiate, for the Time
being in His Majesty's Ships and Vessels Stationed
in the River Delaware.

Remains of Provisions on board the Victualler.

Report of Survey on the Provisions saved out of
the Juliana Victualler.

Acco.^t of the Sale of the damaged Provisions
received out of the Juliana Victualler.

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Proebuck at Philadelphia. List of Officers appointed to Officiate, for the Time being in His Majesty's Ships and Vessels
 under the Orders of Capt. And. Inape Hammond, detached from y^e Postward y^e 2^d of the 11th of the 1st of Feb^r 1778.

Date of Appointment	Officers Name.	Qualities.	From what Ship appointed	To what Ship Appointed	Cause of the Appointment.
1777					
Decem ^r 11	Richard Clark.	Surgeon.	Proebuck.	The Naval Hospital established for the Time being at Philadelphia.	The Appointment found necessary for the good of His Majesty's Service, from the very sickly State of the Squadron.
25	John Benson.	Gunner.	Proebuck.	Delaware.	He being appearing appointed Gunner of the Ship.
20	Rich ^d . Bourne.	1 st Lieut.	Delaware.	Delaware.	In the room of M ^r Thompson acting as Lieut. deceased.
	And ^{rs} Inape Drigley.	2 ^d Lieut.	Proebuck.	Delaware.	In the room of M ^r Richard Bourne acting as 2 ^d Lieut. appointed to act as first Lieutenant.
23	Rich ^d . Clark.	Surgeon.	Proebuck.	Proebuck.	In the room of M ^r Tho ^s . Fletcher the former Surgeon, Guard on Survey unable to discharge his Duty on account of his ill state of Health.
"	En ^l . Odell Hart.	Surgeon's M ^t .	Proebuck.	Proebuck.	In the room of M ^r Tho ^s . Fletcher the former Surgeon's Mate appointed to Officiate as Surgeon.
24	John Bradford.	Master Pilot.	Proebuck.	Cornwallis Galley.	M ^r Leonard Miley 2 ^d Master Pilot not being able to attend his Duty on account of his Wounds.
	Will ^m Crofts.	Cook.	Proebuck.	Pearl.	In the room of the former Cook, deceased.
30	Thomas Luch.	Carpenter.	Proebuck.	Camilla.	In the room of the former Carpenter, deceased.
	Will ^m . Edwards.	Surg. M ^t .		Liverpool.	In the room of the former Surgeon's Mate, discharged Wm ^{ble} .

A. Hammond.

Proebuck at Philadelphia
the 22. February 1778.

Sir,

Having received the enclosed Letter from Captain Stewart of the Artillery respecting some of the Guns taken out of the Wreck of the Augusta, I am to desire you will please to inform me of the Number brought from the Ship, how many have been proved by General Pattison's Order, what number yet remains to be proved, and how many upon the whole are likely to prove Serviceable.

I am also to desire you will make enquiry, if there are any Guns, or Ordnance Transports, under the Direction of General Pattison, that have ^{Powder} any onboard for the Use of the Navy, and Report to me the result of the enquiry as soon as possible. I am

Lieut. Gen. Parker
Agent for Transports.

A. S. Hamond.

Secret,

Proebuck at Philadelphia
the 22 Feby 1778.

Dear Sir,

As His Majesty's Ship under your Command may be wanted for a particular Service as soon as the River is clear of Ice. I am to desire that you will cause such preparations to be made for that purpose as may be necessary,
and

and for moving from the Wharf at as short a notice as possible. I am &c

A S Hammond.

Capt. Christian
Vigilant.

Probuch at Philadelphia

26th Feby 1778.

Sir,

A Body of Troops having crossed over last night to the Jerseys, under the Command of Colonel Sterling, It is my direction that you place the Schooner under your Command as near the Point of Coopers Ferry on the Jersey Shore as may be convenient, in order to observe the Motions of the Enemy, and to be at hand to communicate with the Kings Troops at that place.

You are to be particularly careful in keeping a good look out during the Night, and to send me the earliest intelligence of any thing that may be necessary for me to be informed of.

I am &c

A S Hammond.

Lieu. Pakenham
Viper.

Probuch at Philadelphia

27th Feby 1778.

Sir,

The General having forbid any Wood to be cut or Fence Rails carried away from the Banks of the River, between the City and Point No point, in order to preserve the Forage for next Summer,

J

21
I am to desire You will please not to permit any
Boats to pass above the Vigilant, but such as are
going for Provisions and have Passes from the
Magistrates for that purpose. I am &c

W. Hammond.

Capt. Christian

Vigilant.

Probus at Philadelphia
the 7th March 1778

Sir,

I have been favored with your
Letter of the 14th ult.^o by Captain Collins of the
Nautilus, who arrived here with the Dispatches
on the 26th of last Month. He now has my Orders
to return to New York, and is charged with conveying
two Ordnance Transports and several other Vessels
bound thither.

The accident that has happened to
the Liverpool is most severely felt here; it has
so much weakened this Squadron, that the
remaining Ships are but barely sufficient to
preserve an open Communication with the
Sea, and execute the necessary Attendance un-
avoidable to the particular Situation of the
Army. It is therefore that I am obliged to request
that you will please to send back the Nautilus
or some Frigate with the Baggage and Fluy Ships
which Sir William Howe expects are prepared

at

at New York for this place, it not being in my power at present to send a Ship from hence on that Service.

I do not write to the Admiral by this Conveyance, as I expect his Lordship will have left Rhode Island before the Letter would reach that place.

The Delaware which for some days before the Arrival of the Nautilus had been quite clear of Ice, has by the last Frost been again so much filled with it, that the Fleet of Army Victuallers and other Ships going down the River, are still detained at the Wharfs on that account.

I am with all possible respect

Commodore Notham—

A. Hammond.

Presbuck at Philadelphia

the 13th March 1778—

My Lord,

I had the honor to receive your Letter of the 22^d February by the Brune yesterday, and to day nine of the Hay Ships have arrived at the Town, what happened to the others your Lordship will be informed of by Captain Ferguson.

This Supply arrived at a most seasonable time as the Army had only one Weeks Forage. This scarcity had determined the General to send a Body of Troops to the Jerseys with a number of small Vessels to collect what Hay that

that Country afforded. The Troops are embarked in Transports under the Direction of Colonel Mawhood; and Captain Watt of the Delaware is charged with conducting the Expedition, having the Galley and Armed Vessels under his Command; and as the Descent is intended to be in Cohanzey Creek, (which is upon the Station of the Camilla,) Captain Shippe is directed to make the security of the Fleet a particular object of his attention.

The Pearl is stationed from Peedy Island to Chester, and the Experiment is at Billingsport, where Sir James Wallace (who arrived there yesterday) will be employed in opening more of the passage of the lower Chevaux de Frize. The other Ships are at the Town, and placed chiefly with a view to prevent the Enemy's Gallies from passing.

The Ice in the River prevented the Ships from moving from the Wharfs untill the 8.th of this Month. For a fortnight before there was so much Snow on the Ground, that little or nothing could be done towards the Building the Gallies or refitting the Ships, so that your Lordship will not find them so forward and compleat as I flattered myself would have been the Case, when I last had the honor of writing to your Lordship by the York Sloop. I have the honor &c &c.

Vice Admiral Lord Viscount Howe. &c.

A. Hammond.

Proebuck at Philadelphia

Friday 13th March 1778.

D^r Sir,

I had the honor of your Letter dated the 10th Instant last Night, and congratulate you on the Success in the Exploit you mention in coming up the River.

As I conclude from your Letter, that you do not intend to remain here, but that you are about to depart, I have only to send you my best wishes for Success, and that if you happen to join the Admiral, you will please to acquaint his Lordship, that the Enemy has taken no other measures to obstruct the Navigation of the River, than what you can inform his Lordship you have seen.

Capt. Fergusson

— Brune —

I am with great regard &c.

A. Hammond.

Proebuck at Philadelphia

Friday 13th March 1778.

D^r Sir,

I last night received the favor of your Letter of the 10th acquainting me of the Ships being destroyed that you were sent to retake, and that the Enemy's Gun Boats had escaped into Wilmington Creek; That Service being at an end, I am to desire you will now please to put into execution my Orders of the 7th Instant by taking charge of the Convoy to the Mouth of the River, and afterwards making the best of your way to New York with
such

such part of it as are bound thither.

In case you should be detained in the River by contrary Winds, I would have as many Pilots as can be spared from the Convoy put onboard the Tebra, and Captain Orde dispatched with all possible expedition down to his Station at the Entrance of the River, to facilitate the Arrival of the many Ships that are daily expected to be coming into the River. The Pilots now onboard the Nautilus are also to be left onboard the Tebra.

I am with great regard &c.

H. Hammond.

Captain Collins

Nautilus.

B. S. The Commander of the Cornwallis Galley is to be directed to join the Fleet escorted by the Camilla, and put himself under the immediate Command of Captain Matt.

Proebuck at Philadelphia

D. Sir,

Friday 13th March 1778

I am extremely sorry to learn that from the badness of the Weather, and other incidents, you have been so long delayed with the Convoy; and prevented from getting to your Station at the Entrance of the River.

By the arrival of the Porune, I am informed that a number of Ships are daily expected to arrive; I have therefore written to Capt. Collins of the Nautilus by this conveyance, to desire that he will dispense with your Absence from the

the Convoy, and that he will put as many Pilots on board the Zebra as can possibly be spared from the Convoy, and you will then make the best of your way down to your Station, (which you will extend to Cape Henlopen as the Weather may serve) and facilitate the arrival of the Ships expected, by every means in your power.

In case the Ships coming in have a Convoy, you need only to Assist them with a Pilot, but if otherwise, you are to keep them with you, untill they can be escorted to the Camilla, which Ship is stationed from Bombay Hook, to Reddy Island, and will then take charge of them to the next Station.

M^r Gilbert, the Harbour Master, is sent down to lay the Buoy, intended to mark the Shoals in the Bay, He has with him the Ballahoo Schooner, but may want some further Assistance, which you will please to give him.

I desire to hear from you by every opportunity, and am &c.

W^m Hammond.

Capt. Order.

Zebra.

Philadelphia th 7 March 1778.

Sir,

Your Letter of the th 14 of last Month I have received; and your Request respecting proper Vouchers for Stores purchased, and the Hire of Artificers shall be attended to.

Since my last Letter I have
Drawn

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drawn three Bills of Exchange on you, the first in
favor of M. Tench Coxe, or Order, dated the 12th of last
Month for the Sum of Sixty seven Pounds, ten shillings
Sterling, the second on the 23rd for £189. 3. 7 Sterling
payable to Samuel Inglis, or Order, and the third
bearing date the 6th Instant for £10. 50 Sterling in
favor of Thomas Charles Williams, or Order; which
being for Stores purchased for, and other contingent
Expences of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under
my Orders in the River Delaware, you will be
pleased to pay when they become due. And the
Companies of the several Ships being much in
want of Beds, as well as Hammaccoes, which
cannot be procured here, I must request you
will send by the first suitable Conveyance from
New York a sufficient proportion of these Articles for
their use. I am.

To
M^r Henry Fowler
Naval Officer New York.

W^m Hamond

Procbuck at Philadelphia

The 26 March 1778.

Sir,

Lord Howe not being yet arrived from
Rhode Island, and the General having desired the
Sandwich Pacquet may be dispatched to England,
I do myself the honor of writing to you by that
Conveyance, to inform my Lords, the Commissioners
of the Admiralty, what has passed here since my
last Letter by the Desperence Pacquet.

From the end of December to the 8th
Instant the Navigation of the River Delaware
has

has been interrupted by the Ice, but open at certain times for many days together. During one of these Intervals the Enemy attempted to pass a number of Gun Boats by the Town, with a view to annoy Vessels that might come into the River before the Ships of War could take their Stations; but two of the crews deserting, and bringing their Boats with them, the others were conveyed over land a distance of forty Miles, where they were joined by others from the Rebel Post at Wilmington; and two Transports (the *Katy* & *Mermaid*) laden with Hay from Rhode Island fell into their Hands, together with an Armed Schooner in the Engineers Department from New York. However the Rebels had not much Advantage from their Capture, as they were soon pursued, and obliged to set fire to the Ships, (which were consumed,) and the Schooner was retaken.

These Ships were part of a Fleet of eleven Sail sent from Rhode Island with Hay, under the Convoy of the *Brune*, and had separated at Sea. The *Brune* with the Remainder, and the *Nottingham* Transport from Cork, arrived in the River the 7th Ins. as did the *Diamond* with seven more Hay Ships about a Week after.

The Ships of War now form a Chain down the River; they have already taken and destroyed most of the Enemys Armed Boats that infested the Mouths of the Creeks, and Buoys are laid to mark the Obstructions, and Shoals; so that the Navigation to Philadelphia is rendered as practicable as it can be, untill more of the Chevaux de Frizes ^{are} removed

removed, or destroyed, which is about to be undertaken.

Several Detachments of the Army have been crossed over to the Jersey occasionally, whenever the Enemy have shewn themselves in that Country; who have always fled on the approach of the Kings Troops. And a new corps of Jersey Volunteers having taken Post at Billingsport a few days ago, have already been joined by numbers of the Country People.

The Town has been well Supplied with Provisions during the whole Winter, and the Army has been remarkably healthy; but the Seamen in the Ships of War have not been quite so fortunate, as will appear by the return I have the honor to enclose. —

All the Transports and Flat Boats are repaired and in good Condition, and two Prow-Gallies, each to carry an 18 Pdr. which I have caused to be built here, by Order of the Admiral will be launched in a few days —

I am with all possible regard &c.

A. Hammond.

Philip Stephens Esq.^r

Proebuck at Philadelphia
the 27th March 1778.

Gent.^m

Since my last letter by the Despencer Packet I have had occasion to draw on your Bond the undermentioned Bills. Viz.

14.	March 78.	in favor of George Leyburn for	£ 201. 18. 3 1/4.
21	-----	in favor of John Paterson for	503. 10. 3
-----	-----	in favor of Henry Bird for	410. 19. 8
23	-----	in favor of John Paterson for	35. 7. 10
-----	-----	in favor of Henry Bird	284. 14. 10
			£ 1435. 11. 11 1/4

which being for Naval Stores wanted immediately
for the use of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels
stationed in the River Delaware, under my
Orders, I am to request you will be pleased to
pay the same when they become due. I am &c

A. Hammond.

To
The Principal Officers
and Commissioners of His Maj^{ty}
Navy.

Proebuck at Philadelphia
the 31. March 1778.

Sir,

The General having requested a Sum
of Money, consisting of Fifteen thousand Pounds,
should be sent to New York for the contingent
Expences of the Army; I have sent the Camilla
on that Service; And as three Victuallers
which came from the West-Indies under
Convoy of the Vulture to New-York, laden
chiefly with dry Provisions for the Army, are
much wanted here; I am to request the
favor that they may be sent hither under
Convoy of Captain Phipps. with as much
expedition as possible. I have the honor to be

Commodore Notham.

&c

A. Hammond

Brook at Philadelphia
the 7th April 1778.

Dear Sir

I was extremely concerned to learn by your Letter of the 5th Instant, which I received yesterday, that you have met with so much bad weather and been so unfortunate as to have sprung your Main-mast. If it should prove too bad, to be rendered Serviceable by fishing, the sooner you send me the Dimensions the better, as I may immediately set about providing you with a new one. — The four Fluy Ships are arrived at the Town; — I hope before this the rest of the Convoy with the Isis are also arrived in the River.

What can have become of the Admiral? — It is impossible to express the anxiety we are in on his account, as ten days have elapsed since his Lordship was off New-York. I hope we shall find He has gone back thither, and that He is not all this time beating about at Sea.

The

The General is somewhat disappointed at his Letters not having gone to Rhode Island. - If you should leave the River before the Eagle comes in, You will be so good as to leave the Letters onboard the Pearl with Captain Linzee.

The Vulture (which I have stationed from the Brown to the Harbours) is in want of Fuel. I have therefore sent the Elk down to her with Coals, and a Supply also of that Article for the Lebra at the Cape, - by that Conveyance you will receive this Letter.

I have no News of any importance to Send You from hence, the Fort at Billingsport is now held by the Jersey Volunteers, under a Colonel Vandyke, and as the Country People daily come in, it seems to promise many advantages.

I have the honor to be with very great regard D^r Sir, &c.
A. Hammond.

Capt. Ferguson - Boune, at Wilmington

33
Proebuck at Philadelphia

th 11 April 1778.

Sir,

The General having desired a Ship of War may be provided to carry Major General Jones to New-York; and proposed Wednesday next for his departure; I am to request you will please to give Captain Dickson of the Greyhound, such Orders as you may think proper for that purpose.

I have the honor to be &c

A. Hamond.

Capⁿ Ferguson - Brune.

Proebuck at Philadelphia

th 21 April 1778.

Sir,

I received your Letter dated the 5th Jan^y with the several Pacquets for the Lord Viscount Howe; which I have forwarded to his Lordship, who I am informed is arrived at the Mouth of the River.

The Andromeda appeared off the Delaware the 10th Instant, where Captain Pryne received information of the Admirals being at New York and proceeded thither with his Lordships Dispatches, sending those for the General by another Conveyance. I have the honor to be &c

A. Hamond.

Philip Stephens Esq^r

Proctor at Philadelphia
the 25. April 1778.

Transports

Sir,

Ccho.
Betsey & Polly.
Lally.
Minerva.
Cyra.
Quebec.
Batchelor.
Jeany.
Terrible.
Christian.
Dorothy.
Molly.
Malaga.
Peggy.
Mermaid.
Peggy.
Union.
Two Brothers.
Union.
Lord Howe.
Esk.
Thames.
Victuallers
Adamant.
Blessing.
Woodlands.

I am commanded by the Admiral
to signify his Directions to you, to take under
your Convoy the Transports and Victuallers named
in the Margin, together with such Private Vessels
as appear to have proper Permission to depart;
and proceed with them as expeditiously as
possible to New York; where you are to follow
the Directions of Commodore Rotham for your
further proceedings. I am &c

A. Hammond

Lieut. John Holloway — Thames —

35
Sir,

Roebuck at Cork 25 June 1794

Be pleased to acquaint the Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty, that I arrived here Yesterday, with His Majesty's Ship under my command, and the Delight Sloop, together with the Storeships, Transports, and Tugs as are mentioned in the enclosed List.

I have made enquiry concerning the forwardness of the Victuallers intended for New York, and find they will not have completed their Lading in less than a fortnight, or perhaps a longer time, however I shall endeavour to persuade the Contractors, to use more expedition and as soon as they are ready, shall proceed according to their Lordships Orders.

I have received your Letter of the 11th instant concerning the 4 ships bound to Halifax, and am

Sir
Yours most Obedt^{ly}
most Able Serv^t
A. Hamond

Philip Stephens Esq^r

Sir,

Rockingham Harbour 17th July 1779

I think it necessary to acquaint you for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that although the Fleet of Nuttall's Transports which I am directed to convoy to New-York arrived here eight weeks ago, they were not compleat in their Lading untill today, owing to the dilatoryness of the Commissary & Contractors agents in sending down their cargoes, which is brought from York in lighters to the ships at Casage a distance of about Six miles.

Having heard of a French Privateer being upon the Coast I have kept the Delight only on along shore, between Waterford & Kinsale to protect the Trade, she returned here a few days ago, and as the Fleet is now ready, their Lordships may depend I shall put to sea the very first favourable opportunity. The Severathan is still detained by contrary winds, and as the two convoys will now sail at the same time, we shall continue together for a considerable distance, in order to strengthen our force against the Enemy.

Enclosed is the State & Condition of the Ships, and also a List of the Convoy. I have the honor to be

Sir

your most Obedient
humble servant

A. Hammond

Philip Stephens Esq^r

Sir

Rock Bank at New York, 20 Sept^r 79.

My last letter from York dated 20 July acquaints you for information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, of my having put to sea, with the New York, & West India Fleet; I have now the satisfaction to inform you, of my arrival here, with His Majesty's ship under my command, the Delight Sloop, of War, and all the Convoy intrusted to my care, that were bound to this place, consisting in the whole of 50 sail,

I kept the Leviathan and her Convoy with me, untill we had advanced near two hundred Leagues from the Coast, and the Halifax ships continued in the Fleet untill the 5th instant, when they left me with a favourable wind, and were within two days sail of their Port. I should however except one of them named the Sally, which choose to part company some days before, without asking leave,

I am

Sir

Your most Obed^t

Your most humble servant

A. Hammond

Philip Stephens Esq^r

EP